(c) Installation of warning signs/markers in the vicinity of PNB pipeline network.

Based on the feedback, preventive measures are strengthened further from time to time with the cooperation of consumers.

India Energy Outlook Report on Coal Bed Methane

214. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a Report titled 'India Energy Outlook' published by global consulting firm KPMG stating 'with proven reserves of 765 Mtoe (Million tones of oils equivalent) and indicated reserves of between 1260-2340 Mtoe, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) as an opportunity could be larger than either oil or natural gas'; and

(b) if so, whether Government have studied this Report and devised relevant modalities to harness this source of energy, especially in view of India's requirement of 60 per cent fuel being imported, involving huge foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, but, Government has not studied the Report titled "India Energy Outlook". Government of India formulated Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy in the year 1997 to harness CBM. Government has awarded 26 CBM blocks under three rounds of CBM held so far. The total CBM resource in 26 awarded CBM blocks is 49.5 TCF (1400 Million Tones of Oil equivalent). Till date total 6.24 TCF (176 Mtoe) CBM reserve has been established in four CBM blocks. The commercial production of CBM is likely to start in the year 2007-08.

Adulteration of autofuel

†215. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by Government to check misuse of kerosene oil and its adulteration with autofuel;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any law has been enacted to check adulteration and measure purity and quality of autofuel;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said law provides for stringent penalty and cancellation of license, etc. in the event of charges of adulteration are proved; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. To check adulteration in autofuels and diversion of PDS Kerosene, Government has asked Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps to contain the menace of adulteration:—

(i) Under the Control Orders issued by the Government to prevent fuel adulteration, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in adulteration. Government have requested the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to take steps to control adulteration.

(ii) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in cases of adulteration being established.

(iii) Government has taken the initiatives to expedite the installation of Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor the movement of tank trucks.

(iv) OMCs have introduced new tamper proof tank-truck locking systems to prevent en-route adulteration by transporters.

(v) Keeping in view the misuse/diversion of SKO for adulteration, the import of SKO by private parties has been canalized through OMCs.

(vi) As advised by the Government, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have created a separate wing to report to a Director other than Director (Marketing), which will oversee and monitor all activities and operations to curb adulteration and specify norms and guidelines in this regard.

In order to check adulteration the Government has recently taken a number of new initiatives which are annexed as statement.

Statement

Details of new initiatives taken to check adulteration of petrol/diesel and streamlining PDS kerosene distribution

Checking adulteration is a continuous process and the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been reviewing steps taken to curb adulteration from time to time. In the process, several technological and institutional measures have been taken to contain adulteration. The recent steps taken by the Ministry are summarized below:

1. **Automation of Retail Outlets:** In order to monitor the activities at retail outlets by adopting the latest technological improvements, automation of retail outlets is being implemented. MOP&NG has directed the oil marketing companies to complete automation of retail outlets selling more than 200 KL per month by March 2007.

2. **Third Party Certification of Retail Outlets:** OMCs have been directed to complete third party certification of all the retail outlets selling more than 100 KL per month by March 2007.

3. **Monitoring of movement of Tank Trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS):** In order to prevent adulteration during transportation, OMCs have been directed to install GPS for complete monitoring of the movement of all the company owned/dealer owned/ contractor owned tank trucks by March 2007.

4. Marker System in Kerosene: To check adulteration in autofuels, Government has asked public sector Oil marketing Companies (OMCs) to take various steps, including introduction of marker in adulterants. OMCs have commenced introduction of marker in kerosene on all India basis with effect from 1.10.2006. Under the new system, Marker is being put in kerosene in all depots. This system heralds the introduction of world class

technology to curb and eventually eliminate the menace of adulteration of transportation fuels along the supply chain. With the marker's presence, adulteration even with very low levels of kerosene can be detected. MS/ HSD Control Order, 2005, SKO Control Order, 1993 and MDG 2005 have been amended for making provision regarding introduction of marker system in Kerosene to check adulteration. A committee has been set up in the Ministry to monitor the progress of the marker system. Oil Marketing Companies in the Private sector have also been simultaneously asked to introduce marker in Kerosene as is being done by Public-Sector OMCs.

5. **Revising the Marketing Discipline Guidelines:** The Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) under which the oil marketing companies take penal actions against the erring dealers have been revised during August 2005 making the penal actions more stringent. As per MDG, 2005, a dealership would be terminated in the first instance of adulteration itself.

6. **Jan Kerosene Pariyojna:** To streamline the PDS Kerosene distribution system and contain diversion of kerosene for adulteration and other unauthorized usages, Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP) had been launched initially for a period of 6 months on a pilot basis in 414 blocks with effect from 2.10.2005. The Pilot scheme has been further extended upto 30.6.2007.

7. **Smart Card Scheme:** With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers in an efficient and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementations of the Pilot.

Promotion of Bio-diesel

†216. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by Government to promote Bio-diesel;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.